Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A work machine, comprising:

a chassis;

at least one ground engaging member;

at least one elongate member having a first end and a second end;

said first end rotatably coupled with said chassis;

said second end coupled to said ground engaging member;

a controller;

a position sensor coupled to at least one of said elongate members;

said position sensor generating a position signal indicative of an orientation of said elongate member relative to said chassis and relaying said position signal to said controller; and

said controller, in response to said position signal, determining an actual height of said chassis from said position signal and adjusting said actual chassis height to conform to a controller-inputted desired chassis height.

2. The work machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said position sensor comprises a potentiometer.

3. The work machine as set forth in claim 1 wherein said chassis includes:

a cab portion; and

a first trailer portion hingedly coupled to said cab portion.

4. The work machine as set forth in claim 1 including a motive device coupled to said second end for imparting motion to said ground engaging member.

5. The work machine as set forth in claim 4 wherein said motive device is a hydraulic motor.

6. The work machine as set forth in claim 1 including a second trailer portion coupled to said first trailer portion.

7. The work machine as set forth in claim 6 wherein said second trailer portion is articulable relative to said first trailer portion.

8. The work machine as set forth in claim 1 including:

a roll sensor coupled to said chassis;

said roll sensor generating a orientation signal indicative of a transverse pitch of said chassis and relaying said orientation signal to said controller; and

said controller, in response to said orientation signal, adjusting at least one said elongate member to orient said chassis substantially horizontally.

9. The work machine as set forth in claim 8 wherein said roll sensor comprises a gravity operated sensor.

10. The work machine as set forth in claim 9 wherein said gravity operated sensor is a pendulum.

11. A work machine comprising:

a chassis having (i) a cab portion, and (ii) a first trailer portion hingedly coupled to said cab portion;

at least four ground engaging members;

at least four elongate member having a first end and a second end;

each said first end of each of said elongate members rotatably coupled with said chassis;

each said second end coupled to one of said ground engaging members;

a second trailer portion hingedly coupled to said first trailer portion;

a motive device coupled to each said second end for imparting motion to each said attached ground engaging member;

a position sensor coupled to said elongate member;

said position sensor generating a position signal indicative of an orientation of the elongate member relative to said chassis, and relaying said position signal to said controller;

said controller, in response to said position signal, determining an actual height of the chassis from said position signal and adjusting said actual chassis height to conform to a controller-inputted desired chassis height;

a roll sensor coupled to said chassis;

said roll sensor generating a orientation signal indicative of a transverse pitch of said chassis and relaying said orientation signal to said controller; and

said controller, in response to said orientation signal, adjusting said elongate member to orient said chassis substantially horizontally.

12. The work machine as set forth in claim 11 including:
six ground engaging members; and
six elongate members.

13. The work machine as set forth in claim 11 including:
eight ground engaging members; and
eight elongate members.

14. A method of stabilizing the chassis of a work machine of the type having at least one elongate member having a first end rotatably coupled with the chassis, comprising the steps of:

providing a controller;

providing a position sensor coupled to at least one of the elongate members;

said position sensor generating a position signal indicative of an orientation of the elongate member relative to the chassis and relaying said position signal to said controller; and

said controller, in response to said position signal, determining an actual height of the chassis from said position signal and adjusting said actual chassis height to conform to a controller-inputted desired chassis height.

15. The method as set forth in claim 14 including the step of:
providing a roll sensor coupled to the chassis;

said roll sensor generating a orientation signal indicative of a transverse pitch of the chassis and relaying said orientation signal to said controller; and

said controller, in response to said orientation signal, adjusting at least one elongate member to orient the chassis substantially horizontally.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein said roll sensor comprises a gravity operated sensor.

17. The method as set forth in claim 14 including the step of:

providing the chassis with a cab portion and a first trailer portion hingedly coupled to said cab portion.

18. The method as set forth in claim 17 including the step of providing a second trailer portion coupled to said first trailer portion.

19. The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein said position sensor comprises a potentiometer.